

## HAMNET BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY 5 September 2004

HAMNET is the Official Emergency Communications network of the South African Radio League and provides emergency communication to local, regional and national authorities, when requested to do so.

THIS BULLETIN WAS COMPILED AND PREPARED BY FRANCOIS BOTHA ZS6BUU.

IN THE BULLETIN TODAY:-

BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY EMERGENCIES AROUND THE WORLD AMATEUR RADIO AGAIN TO THE RESCUE HAMNET IN THE VAAL TRIANGLE REPORT BACK SEARCH & RESCUE MEETING

### 1. HAMNET BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY

KZN Sunday morning at 07H00 on their local VHF repeaters with a relay on 7.070MHz. KZN also have a Wednesday evening call-up and meeting on their 2M repeater system.

National Bulletin at 17H00 local on 145,700MHz, 10,130Mhz in the 30M band with a relay on 7.070Mhz in the 40M band. Current winter time is 16H30.

The Gauteng North bulletin will follow immediately after the National Bulletin on 145,725MHz in the Pretoria area on Sundays.

North West Province have a club bulletin on Mondays, which includes a Hamnet segment at 19H00 local on 3,750Mhz in the 80M band as well as their local repeater on 145.737.5Mhz.

Hamnet Western Cape Province meet on Wednesdays at 20H30 local on 145:700MHz, relayed on 3,674MHz.

The HAMNET Bulletin is sent to all those of whom I have an e-mail address and also sent out on packet by Rudi, ZS6DX.

### 2. EMERGENCIES AROUND THE WORLD

Due to the length of this bulletin, and although there were quite a number of emergencies, they will be kept over for a later bulletin and only the more serious will be discussed.

Typhoons in China and East and South East Asia were a major problem in August. China also experienced an earthquake and the Caribbean was hit by hurricane Charley.

Locusts are devouring crops across north Africa and as much as 80% of crops have been lost with result that millions of tons of emergency food supplies will be needed in the not too distant future.

Florida in the USA was also hit by hurricane Charley that caused thousands to leave their homes and seek shelter inland. The damage was tremendous. As we

speak, hurricane Frances is heading toward the Florida coast, this time twice the size of Charley.

There was also a major gas explosion in Paraguay and flooding in the DPR of Korea.

### 3. AMATEUR RADIO AGAIN TO THE RESCUE

“A call for help from South Pacific”. It is a major disaster and they anticipate being without food and water for seven days.

These were the comments from Steve McCully, an amateur well know in South Africa as W7TZ.

In the middle of the Pacific Ocean, 1300 miles northeast of Australia, is a small island approx. 160 square miles in size, called Niue Island. On a day in January this year, a storm tore through the island, leaving two people missing, injuring three others and destroying five or six buildings. The storm also knocked out communication links with the outside world, leaving the people of Niue with no way to call for help.

Steve in Oak Hills, California, was in his shack talking to friends around the world, when he picked up a distress call for help from the Island. Steve then became the only link to the outside world for the Island and its 2,000 residents. Even the Government of New Zealand were unaware that the Island had been ravaged.

Steve realized that action was needed immediately. He contacted the New Zealand Consul General, Darryl Dunn, in Los Angeles and patched him through via telephone and amateur radio to the Niue chief of Police. At that point, all the information relayed to New Zealand was via Steve and amateur radio. Although there is a satellite phone on the Island, at that time it was not working

A plane and ship was despatched from New Zealand to render assistance and drop emergency food and water till the ship arrived.

Dunn commented later that they were extremely grateful to Steve for establishing contact with Niue and setting the ball rolling to assist the Islanders. At one stage, contact with the Island was lost, but another station on Hawaii picked up the call and continued to assist with communications.

Well done Steve and thank you for sending us this article which again enforces the fact that Amateur Radio really is an excellent tool when it comes to assisting in emergencies.

As a matter of interest, Niue is the largest coral Island in the world and a few hundred miles west of French Polynesia where the last emergency we discussed last month, took place.

### 4. HAMNET IN THE VAAL TRIANGLE

“Municipal Fire Station hosts Vaal Triangle Amateur Radio Club” end quote. A news item sent to me from the Vaal Triangle HAMNET members indicating the willingness of Disaster Management to work more closely with Amateur Radio operators in the Vaal Triangle.

Alec, ZS6MVA has thanked the Fire Station Staff for the use of this secure and central meeting venue. Linking up the Club with the Emergency Authorities is in line with the South African Radio League decision to follow the lead taken by HAMNET which is now to a certain extent sponsored by the Government via a grant allocated to us by the Department of Transport.

This venue is ideal for assisting Disaster Management in case of an emergency where the use of Amateur Radio can comfortably be implemented to assist in areas where normal communication may be inadequate.

Great to see this venture taking place and we sincerely hope this may also lead to more people becoming interested not only in Amateur Radio as a hobby but also to join the League and HAMNET.

#### 5. REPORT BACK SEARCH & RESCUE MEETING

On 17 August, I attended the annual Search & Rescue meeting held at the AT & NS training centre east of Johannesburg International Airport. Present was the chairperson, Arthur Bradshaw and disaster Management delegates from around the country.

In attendance were also the representatives of the Mountain Club of S.A and the Off Road Rescue Unit.

The agenda also included for the first time, an individual report back from the various delegates as to their preparedness and feedback on their units capabilities in times of emergency.

We also thanked the Organisation for the Grant that was handed to us and it materialised that the grant was a token of appreciation of the work done over the years by Hamnet, The Mountain Club and the Off Road Rescue units.

Charles Norval of the Air Traffic and Navigational System also gave some feedback on the exercise that took place in the Tzaneen area during February. Although the exercise was cut short due to poor weather conditions, the whole organisation was extremely satisfied with the whole operation considering that some of the parties taking part were not aware that it was merely an exercise.

He thanked all for their participation.

Arthur Bradshaw also indicated that the Search & Rescue meetings will take place on a more regular basis in future.

#### REMINDER

Just a reminder also for the local Hamnet members, the Cradle Classic cycle race is still taking place on Sunday the 26th of September and Keith, ZS6AGF is in

charge of the placing of at least 12 people needed to ensure good communications. Keith can be contacted at 011 675-1604 or you can contact me at 011 679-5260. We need at least 4 people who can operate HF and VHF from vehicles for the outlying areas.

#### ALLOCATION OF GRANT

The grant allocated to us by Search & Rescue is on fixed deposit until the end of October. The reason why this was done was that after the announcement, time would be allowed for various proposals to be put forward as to how the money should be allocated.

Several requests have been made, but to date nothing has come forward. One decision has already been made namely that HAMNET will purchase an HF and 2 metre rig for the “Siyabona” educational centre in Johannesburg. This centre will be a training venue for people interested in electronics and amateur radio but will also double as a control centre in times of emergency. The reason for this purchase is that 20% of any grant may be used to further the benefits of the controlling body be it the SARL, one benefactor and HAMNET, the other benefactor.

I also requested divisions to submit motivations to me of expenses they envisage regarding their needs to expand and improve their communication preparedness. I also indicated that the allocation will be on a Rand for Rand basis.

To date I have received no motivations. Gentleman, please have a look at this matter. Some of the money, from my side, will be spent on Hamnet Manuals and so on. We are just waiting for the money to become available and the necessary will be done.

#### HAMNET MANUAL

The HAMNET Manual has now been updated and my thanks to Alan Franszen ZS6BIK for his assistance. As soon as the funds from the Grant become available, I will distribute printed copies but I also intend to copy the manual on to CD for ease of distribution country wide.

That s all for today.

Bulletin ends.